



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



January 2019

Waspy's Truck Stop Honored with Iowa Venture Award

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunication companies, honored eight distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting.

Waspy's Truck Stop, is under the ownership and leadership of Lawrence "Waspy" and Doris Handlos. They have invested more than \$7 million to create Waspy's Truck Stop in Templeton. Lawrence and Doris were born and raised in Willey in Carroll County and the Handlos family has farmed in the area for years and responded to the community need for a truck stop to serve the thousands of vehicles that pass by on Highway 141 on journey to Templeton for Templeton Rye. The facility provides a full-service cafe, groceries, spirits den, cigar humidor, fuel and car wash. After successfully launching the Templeton facility, they built a similar but larger \$18 million complex in Audubon, Iowa in August that includes a truck stop, full service restaurant and bar, hotel, car wash and a truck service center that is under construction right now that will include truck wash bays, tire repair and diesel repair. Waspy's was nominated by Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative. 06.33.03

"The Iowa Venture Awards Luncheon provides a forum to celebrate the courage, contribution, innovation, responsibility, and vision of Iowa entrepreneurs," said IADG President Rand Fisher. "We are pleased to honor Waspy's Truck Stop and the Handlos family, and recognize the great amenities they have made available to nearby residents and people traveling in Iowa."

Mark Adams Appointed to Board

During the November 21, 2018 your board of directors selected Mark Adams to fill the open board set for District 3. Please join us in welcoming Mark to the board.



Pictured left to right: Jeff Cranston, Director, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative; Dennis Kennebeck, Director, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative; Brady Boell, Director of Safety and Member Services, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative; Mike Naig, IA Secretary of Agriculture; Doris Handlos, Waspy's Truck Stop; Lawrence Handlos, Waspy's Truck Stop; Beth Handlos, Waspy's Truck Stop; Larry Sporrer, Templeton Savings Bank; Jim Gossett, CEO, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative; and Rand Fisher, President, IADG.



Mark Adams

— CEO Comments —



Looking Ahead...

By Jim Gossett, CEO

Happy New Year! As we roll in to 2019, I wanted to give you some perspective on where your Cooperative is on a number of topics in the area of strategic planning, rates and operations.

RVEC plans no rate increase for 2019. Our costs do continue to rise, but we have budgeted 2019 to allow us to hold your rates constant. One of the ways we are doing this is through an investment in technology over the past few years, which is saving us time and payroll dollars without sacrificing safety and reliability.

Another key factor is the reduction in the number of employees due to retirement. Proper training and careful succession planning enables us to provide the service our member-owners expect with fewer employees. Most importantly, we have 17 employees who are all focused on safely providing affordable, reliable, responsible energy services to our member-owners. It is not just a saying with them. They do it every day, watching costs and improving processes to stabilize rates.

Automated Meter Infrastructure installation will be complete in 2019. This has been no small undertaking for an electric cooperative our size. We were overdue for a metering system that meets the needs of the changing energy user and the demands of current technology. Meanwhile it also provides the reporting to the office and to you our member-owners. This data allows all of us to make better decisions about how we use energy. 21.35.02

Community Solar installation is complete! The last array was energized in Glidden last month. We have carefully planned and built a network of five solar projects that will allow us to provide all the member-owners of RVEC with a cost savings on a small portion of RVEC's energy. In addition, the interest among the membership in subscribing to the production of an array and receiving a monthly credit is growing.

What's next? Battery storage of electricity and the advent of electric vehicles are two areas we are focused on in the coming months and years. Like solar and wind, these emerging technologies will mean a change in the way we do business and serve our member-owners.

Through strong leadership by your Board of Directors, focused management and experienced, talented employees, RVEC is better situated than ever to meet the challenges and opportunities of an ever-changing business.

What To Do If the Lights Go Out!

Winter weather can be harsh and unpredictable. RVEC wants you to be prepared in case severe weather causes a power outage. Here are a few tips for when winter weather hits:

- If your power goes out, see if your neighbors are also without power. If they have power, check your breakers.
- Turn off all lights in your home, but keep one light on to let you know when the power is restored.
- Unplug appliances, TVs, computers and all electronic equipment to prevent damage when the electricity is restored. If there are too many appliances drawing electricity when the power is first restored, the system could overload, causing the power to go out again.
- Have batteries handy for flashlights and a radio. Make sure these items are in a convenient location so you can find them in the dark.
- Remember to stay away from downed lines or tree limbs on power lines. Most downed lines are still "live" and can electrocute you if you touch them. Report these dangerous situations to RVEC.
- If you don't have an alternative heat source, put on heavy clothing before you get cold.
- Pull the drapes to save heat. Don't open windows or doors unnecessarily. You want to keep your heat in the house.
- Try to be patient while your power is being restored. RVEC will have your lights on again as soon as possible.

The most important thing to remember is to call RVEC. Please have your location number ready when you call in. We want to get your power turned on quickly and safely.

Scholarships Offered

Administered by Northwest Iowa Community College

Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power supplier to Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), is partnering with Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, to offer scholarship opportunities. As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, Corn Belt Power is committed to the communities it serves and to maintaining a skilled and educated workforce to serve its members well into the future.

Applicants must be enrolled in one of the following technical programs at Northwest Iowa Community College: Electrical Technology, Powerline, Powerline Technology or Substation Technician.

Four separate \$500 scholarships will be awarded annually to individuals who have met the eligibility requirements. Recipients may be either first or second year students, but are eligible for only one scholarship. Each scholarship will be split equally between the first two semesters of enrollment after receiving the scholarship. Scholarship proceeds may be used for tuition, fees and books.

To be considered a candidate for the Corn Belt Power Cooperative Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Reside in a county served by a member cooperative of Corn Belt Power Cooperative.
2. Achieve a high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Accepted as a full time student in one of the identified programs at Northwest Iowa Community College.
4. File scholarship application with the Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation by March 1.
5. Maintain 2.5 minimum grade point average; eligibility shall be reviewed each semester.

All applicants are required to submit a letter of reference from a high school instructor, guidance counselor, current employer or manager of a member electric cooperative with their applications. This reference should address the applicant's potential for success in the program chosen for enrollment. The primary criteria for the award will be the candidate's potential for success and grade point average.

For an application form or more information, contact Sheila Van Engen, foundation secretary, Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation, 603 West Park Street, Sheldon, IA 51201-1046, (800) 352-4907 ext. 246, svanengen@nwicc.edu.

Administered by Iowa Lakes Community College

Committed to the communities it serves and to the production of renewable energy, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power supplier to Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), partners with Iowa Lakes Community College to offer a scholarship opportunity to students who study wind energy and turbine technology. Corn Belt Power is interested in maintaining a skilled and educated workforce that can install, maintain and service modern wind turbines.

Applicants must be enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program at Iowa Lakes Community College.

One \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to an individual who has met the requirements set forth. Recipients may be either first or second year students, but are eligible for only one scholarship. Each scholarship will be split equally between the first two semesters of enrollment after receiving the scholarship. Scholarship proceeds will be used for tuition, fees and books.

To be considered a candidate for the Corn Belt Power Cooperative Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Achieve a high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. 28.28.03
2. Accepted as a full time student in the identified program at Iowa Lakes Community College.
3. Must be an Iowa resident.
4. File scholarship application with Iowa Lakes Community College by April 1.
5. Maintain 2.5 minimum grade point average; eligibility shall be reviewed each semester.

The primary criteria for the award will be the candidate's potential for success and grade point average.

For more information, contact Jolene Rogers, institutional advancement/foundations, Iowa Lakes Community College, 800-242-5106, ext. 4491 or jrogers@iowalakes.edu.

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



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Power Restoration Plan

As the winter temperatures change, storm systems are produced and with them potentially damaging winds, sleet and snow. RVEC would like to guarantee you will have power 100% of the time, but that just isn't possible.

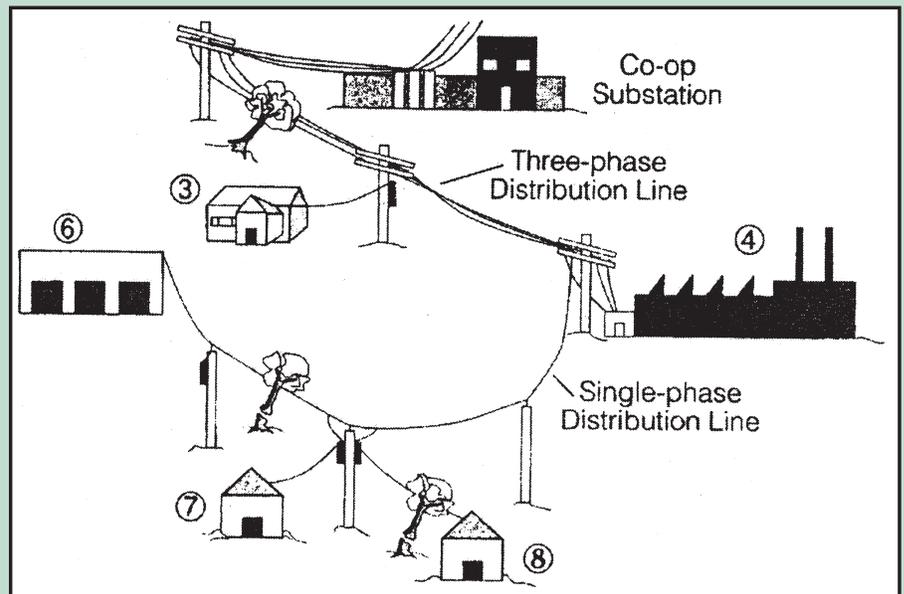
Immediately after a severe storm hits, RVEC linemen begin to assess the extent of the damage. The line superintendent designs a plan to restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time. The severity of the outage and weather conditions always plays a role in the time it takes to restore power.

When a storm strikes, RVEC linemen are immediately dispatched to begin the restoration process. Repairs are made at the substations first, followed by major feeder lines and then individual service lines.

The last portion of the plan, dealing with individual outage situations, can take the greatest amount of time because of the great distance involved between houses. During that stage, linemen move house-to-house making repairs.

All during the power restoration efforts, the telephone calls are answered as they come in. During peak periods, all telephone lines coming into the office can be busy. 22.23.02

The diagram below shows how the restoration plan works. Repairs are made to lines from the substation first. This will restore power to House 3 and Factory 4. The main service line serving Houses 7 and Factory 6 will be repaired next. Finally, the individual service line to House 8 will be repaired.



Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.